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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

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SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

RIGA SCIENTIFIC CENTER -- Riga, Cina, 27 Jul 60

CPYRGHT

A large, 5-hectare construction project of the Academy of Sciences Latvian SSR is under way in Riga. According to the Seven-Year Plan, the institutes of organic synthesis, power and electrical engineering, wood chemistry, and architecture and construction are to be built there. The Institute of Architecture and Construction is nearing completion. A 5-ton structure for testing the strength of materials will be installed in a huge, three-story hall. Next to this hall will be a molding shop for the production of various building materials, as well as a "climatic chamber" for testing the strength of materials under various temperatures and climatic conditions and a number of other laboratories. The Institute's employees are expected to move into their new quarters in September 1960. Two buildings for chemical scientists are to be completed in 1960. An international chemical conference will be held here in 1961.

The Institute of Power and Electrical Engineering will be the largest; 13 million rubles has been allotted for building construction. All laboratories will have modern equipment, enabling the scientists to work on such problems as fuel for the Latvian SSR, automatization of local central heating systems, and exploitation of natural gas. The scientists will develop new electrical devices, study the use of semiconductors, and investigate other problems of importance to the national economy.

The Institute of Organic Synthesis will have one of the most modern and important buildings in the whole Baltic region. It was planned by Leningrad architects.

The new scientific center will provide the most favorable working conditions for 900 scientists of the Latvian SSR.

[Comment: A photograph in source shows the building of the Institute of Power and Electrical Engineering under construction.]

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ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE -- Peiping, Kuang-ming Jih-pao, 13 Jul 60, p 2

CPYRGHT

Summaries of achievements and experiences in astronomy during the past 3 years were reported and plans for the future were outlined at a national conference held at the Purple Mountain Astronomical Observatory in Nanking and sponsored by the Chinese Astronomical Society and the Academia Sinica. More than 100 representatives from all parts of China attended. Chang Yu-che, director for administration of the observatory, and Tai Wen-sai, deputy director, read work reports of the Science Committee and the Chinese Astronomical Society; some 70 scientific papers were read on "Man-Made Satellites," "Space Rockets," "Progress in Astro-evolution," and "Revolutionary Teachings in Astronomy," radio astronomy, observation of variable and unstable stars, theories on solar flares, changes in speed of earth revolution, and polar precession.

CONFERENCE ON TRANSISTORS -- Warsaw, Przegląd Techniczny, 13 Jul 60, p 2

CPYRGHT

At a 2-day conference on transistors recently held in Warsaw, a number of specialist groups were organized which will be concerned with the complicated problems involved in transistor production, research, and design. The conference, attended by 150 representatives, primarily of science and the electronic and electrotechnical industries, discussed the organization of research work on transistors, application of transistors in industry, development methods for the near future, and the most important achievements in utilizing transistors in industry.

ECONOMIC

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY RESEARCH -- Warsaw, Przegląd Techniczny, 13 Jul 60, p 8

CPYRGHT

In the Polish chemical industry, research is conducted by 11 scientific research laboratories. Two are directly associated with the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, and the rest are in individual associations, including four central laboratories and 83 plant research laboratories. The laboratories jointly employ 4,800 people, about 3.5 percent of all employees in the chemical industry.

In 1959, the Technical Progress Fund spent about 113 million zloty in the ministry-associated and central laboratories of the chemical industry; in 1960, the expenditure will be increased to 135 million zloty, not including the plant research laboratories which are financed from enterprise funds. Expenditures for experimental production will be 80 million zloty in 1960, compared with 35 million in 1959. Production value of important new products begun in 1959 was about 240 million zloty, and it is expected to reach 550 million zloty in 1960.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY PLAN -- Berlin, Die Lebensmittelindustrie, Jul 60,
pp 313-314

CPYRGHT

On 27 April 1960, the State Planning Commission resolved that all enterprises, institutions, VVBs (Associations of People-Owned Enterprises), Kreise, Bezirke, departments of the State Planning Commission, and ministries will for the first time prepare a plan to be known as the New Technology Plan. Included in this plan will be data on research and development and their practical application in production, standards, incorporation of new products and processes in production, automatization, and technological and organization measures.

RAIL TRANSPORT IMPROVED -- Peiping, T'u-mu Kung-ch'eng Hsueh-pao, 10 Mar 60, p 21

CPYRGHT

Unrestricted movement of trains through China's mountainous areas has been one of the chief successes achieved as a result of the efforts for prevention of landslides. The serious consequences caused by increased landslides on the Pao-chi--T'ien-shui, Pao-chi--Ch'eng-tu, and Ying-t'an--Amoy lines were basically alleviated in 1959, thus assuring unrestricted travel. The Pao-chi--T'ien-shui line was cut because of landslides only 16 hours and 37 minutes in 1959, whereas the line was cut for 1,080 hours in 1954. Similarly, the Pao-chi--Ch'ung-tu line was broken for 1,000 hours in 1958, but in the rainy season of 1959, the line was broken only 237 hours and 48 minutes. The Canton--Hankow line frequently suffered rock slides, but the efforts of the P'ing-shih section gang have basically eliminated the causes of such damage. Landslide preventive measures have also ensured unrestricted passage of trains on the Heng-yang--Lui-chou line. -- Wang Chu-ch'ien, Vice-Minister of Railways, in a report to the National Conference on Protection Against Landslides.

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